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Mobility contributes to personal and economic independence. Providing accessible transportation is one way cities serve all segments of the population.

"The promise of the ADA was that all Americans should have equal access and equal opportunity, including Americans with disabilities. The ADA was about independence and the freedom to make of our lives what we will ..., and we recommit ourselves to ending discrimination in all its forms".
President Obama

Equal Opportunities and Protection Under the Law

In continuation of our campaign about the rights of persons with disabilities, this week's topic is "the right to enjoy equal opportunities and protections under the law."

Despite the fact that people with disabilities are theoretically entitled to all human rights that most people take for granted, in many places around the world, they are still denied some of the basic rights and fundamental freedoms. People with disabilities have historically been deprived from receiving education, moving around freely, living independently in the community, getting proper health care, getting a job, and exercising political rights, such as voting as well as making their own decisions. They have faced exclusion and have had limitations imposed on their participation in society.

As full citizens, [people with disabilities are entitled to equal rights and opportunities](#). It is the state and society's responsibility to make the appropriate adaptations to ensure the equal enjoyment of all human rights by people with disabilities.

In the United States of America, many laws have been passed that are aimed at promoting and protecting the basic rights of persons with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act is the most comprehensive civil rights legislation that prohibits discrimination against anyone who has a mental or physical disability in the area of employment, public services, transportation, public accommodations and telecommunications. This legislation has contributed greatly in the removal of physical and cultural barriers that have historically prevented people with disabilities to live fulfilling and independent lives as students, workers, family members, and citizens. Full detailed information about

these laws is available at [Americans with Disabilities Act Website](#).

However, non compliance with laws still exists in America and around the world. Civil Society groups in America like the [National Disability Rights Network](#) and [Disability Rights Advocates](#) have organized to promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities, to educate the population about the rights and needs of people with disabilities, and to influence legislation and public policy. Through litigation, they also bring to justice the persons and entities that discriminate against people with disabilities. These groups, often led by people with disabilities and those who support and care for them, continue their advocacy work on behalf of the disabled community in pursuit of fairness and justice.